

New Postal Division for Cooch Behar

319. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration to open a new Postal Division at Cooch Behar under the Jalpaiguri West Bengal Circle; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed postal Division is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO
SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nuclear Deal with U. S. A.

320. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-
DARA MENON :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHASINGH:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India
have recently entered into any new nuclear
deal with the Government of U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Acquiring knowledge of local language by Indian officials in embassies abroad

321. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of
the Indian officials posted in different
embassies missions abroad have no

working knowledge of the language of
the country of their posting;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that official acquire working knowledge of the local language of their place of posting before such posting and by when such steps will come into effect.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): (a) and (b) There is an integrated programme for training of Foreign Service Officers in different languages and every effort is made to ensure that officers get assignments to the language of their training. However, it is not always possible to arrange for officers to be so posted, as certain other factors also have to be taken into consideration.

Expenditure on Telephone Bills of Ministers

322. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISDOIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on account of telephone bills, local and trunk calls of the Union Ministers in each case separately during the period from the 1st April to 30th September 1977, and in the case of the Union Ministers of State for the period from the 15th August to 30th September, 1977, in each case separately together with the expenditure incurred on the same account in respect of the personal staff of the Ministers; and

(b) what is the limit of free calls on Minister's telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKH-
DEO SAI): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha as soon as it is ready.